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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/777,241

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Torsten Niederdrank

P04,0027

4504

26574

7590

04/19/2006

SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP
PATENT DEPARTMENT
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EXAMINER

SWERDLOW, DANIEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,241

Applicant(s)

NIEDERDRANK ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel Swerdlow

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson (US Patent 5,721,783).

3. Regarding Claim 1, Anderson discloses a hearing aid (Fig. 1, reference 10; Fig. 8; column 3, lines 52-60) that includes an RF transceiver (Fig. 1, reference 13) that corresponds to the data transmission device claimed and comprises: an oscillator (Fig. 8, reference 835) that is modulated (column 12, lines 20-24) to generate a reply signal that corresponds to the alterable transmission signal claimed (column 12, lines 24-38); and an antenna and resonator configuration (Fig. 4, reference 40, 41, 42) that corresponds to the antenna device claimed and radiates the reply signal that corresponds to the alterable transmission signal claimed (column 11, lines 31-35); the antenna and resonator configuration (Fig. 4, reference 40, 41, 42) comprising a resonator pair (Fig. 4, reference 41, 42) that corresponds to the coil device claimed and is used for both interrogation and reply (i.e., transmission and reception) (column 11, lines 31-35).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2 through 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Sano (US Patent 6,828,868).

6. Regarding Claim 2, as shown above apropos of Claim 1, Anderson anticipates all elements except that Anderson is silent as to the structure of the oscillator circuit. Sano discloses an oscillating circuit (Fig. 5) comprising a resonant circuit of inductor (L1) and selectable capacitors (C1-1 through C3-2) (i.e., an LC resonant circuit) (column 4, lines 14-65). Sano further discloses that such an arrangement provides stable oscillations of controllable frequency and may be formed on an integrated circuit, which one skilled in the art would have known provides advantages in size, weight, economy and power conservation (column 7, lines 42-45, 55-58). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to apply the oscillator taught by Sano to the hearing aid transceiver taught by Anderson for the purpose of realizing the aforesaid advantages.

7. Regarding Claim 3, as shown above apropos of Claim 1, Anderson anticipates all elements except that Anderson is silent as to the structure of the oscillator circuit. Sano discloses an oscillating circuit (Fig. 5) comprising a current source, differential pair and current mirror configuration (Fig. 5, reference I0, M1, M2, M3, M4; column 3, lines 26-59; column 4, lines 9-18) that corresponds to the actuation circuit claimed. Sano further discloses that such an arrangement provides stable oscillations of controllable frequency and may be formed on an integrated circuit, which one skilled in the art would have known provides advantages in size, weight, economy and power conservation (column 7, lines 42-45, 55-58). It would have been

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obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to apply the oscillator taught by Sano to the hearing aid transceiver taught by Anderson for the purpose of realizing the aforesaid advantages.

8. Regarding Claim 4, as shown above apropos of Claim 3, the configuration that corresponds to the actuation circuit claimed comprises a current mirror (Fig. 5, reference M3, M4) and a differential pair (Fig. 5, reference I0, M1, M2) that corresponds to the comparator claimed.

9. Regarding Claim 5, Sano further discloses a driver (Fig. 8, reference D4) that corresponds to part of the current mirror claimed and comprises a control to control power output and oscillation amplitude (column 8, lines 31-37).

10. Regarding Claim 6, as shown above apropos of Claim 1, Anderson anticipates all elements except that Anderson is silent as to the structure of the oscillator circuit. Sano discloses an oscillating circuit (Fig. 3) comprising a connectable capacitor (C2) for readily changing the oscillation frequency (i.e., frequency modulating an oscillation in the oscillator circuit) (column 3, lines 60-67). Sano further discloses that such an arrangement provides stable oscillations of controllable frequency and may be formed on an integrated circuit, which one skilled in the art would have known provides advantages in size, weight, economy and power conservation (column 7, lines 42-45, 55-58). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to apply the oscillator taught by Sano to the hearing aid transceiver taught by Anderson for the purpose of realizing the aforesaid advantages.

11. Regarding Claim 7, as shown above apropos of Claim 1, Anderson anticipates all elements except that Anderson is silent as to the structure of the oscillator circuit. Sano discloses

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an oscillating circuit (Fig. 3) comprising a connectable capacitor (C2) and switch (S1) configuration that corresponds to the trimming device claimed for readily changing the oscillation frequency (i.e., trimming the resonant frequency of the oscillator circuit) (column 3, lines 60-67). Sano further discloses that such an arrangement provides stable oscillations of controllable frequency and may be formed on an integrated circuit, which one skilled in the art would have known provides advantages in size, weight, economy and power conservation (column 7, lines 42-45, 55-58). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to apply the oscillator taught by Sano to the hearing aid transceiver taught by Anderson for the purpose of realizing the aforesaid advantages.

12. Regarding Claim 8, as shown above apropos of Claim 7, the configuration that corresponds to the trimming device claimed comprises a connectable capacitor (C1).

13. Regarding Claim 9, Sano further discloses a driver (Fig. 8, reference D4) that corresponds to part of the current mirror claimed and receives an input that corresponds to the actuation signal claimed to control output current amplitude (i.e., produce amplitude modulation) (column 8, lines 31-37).

14. Regarding Claim 10, Sano further discloses connectable capacitors (C1-1 through C3-2) that correspond to the modulator circuit claimed (column 4, lines 14-65).

15. Regarding Claim 11, Sano further discloses connectable capacitors (C1-1 through C3-2) that correspond to the trimming device claimed and control (i.e., trim) the resonant frequency of the oscillator circuit (column 4, lines 14-65).

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Swerdlow whose telephone number is 571-272-7531. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday between 7:30 AM and 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh H. Tran can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Daniel Swerdlow
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2615

ds
17 April 2006